THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Teachers were recruited specifically for posting in the North Eastern Region by the Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan on condition that they would not be transferred outside the region under any circumstances This condition was laid down in the interest of adequately staffing the Vidyalayas in this region where there was a shortage of teachers and many teachers after receiving the appointment letters did not join. Besides, many of those who joined immediately submitted representations for transfer to other regions.

Foreign exchange earned by I.T.D.C.

536. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:

SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) what is the quantum of foreign exchange earned by the I.T.D.C. Hotels during the last three years;

(b) whether it is a fact that foreign exchange of ITDC Hotels is declining as compared to hotels in the Private Sectors;

(c) if so, what are the reasons in this regard; and

(d) what steps are being taken by the Government to boost foreign exchange by the ITDC hotels during the next two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) The information is as folows:

Year	Rs. in lakhs
1984-85	446.14
1985-86	563.72
1986-87	763.18

(b) and (c) There are a variety of factors to be taken into consideration for computing foreign exchange earnings of ITDC Hotels vis-a-vis hotels in private sector. The foreign ex change earnings of ITDC hotels as a whole have however increased year after year as is indicated in reply to part (a) of the Question.

(d) Various steps taken by ITDC to boost the foreign exchange earnings of their hotels are as under:—

(i) marketing and reservation tieups with Odner Hotel Representatives Hong Kong and Golden Tulip Worldwide Hotels, Japan;

(ii) promotion of ITDC properties in the overseas market through participation in Travel Trade Forums;

(iii) signing of special rate contracts with foreign tour operators and offering incentives on volume based business to encourage group movement;

(iv) Organising sales blitz in various countries to help establish personal contract with major tour operators; travel agents to promote traffic to India.

Modernisation of railways

537. SHRI KALPNATH RAI:

SHRIMATI SUDHA VIJAY JOSHI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether railways have drawn up any prespective plans for their modernisation for completion by the turn of the present century; and

(b) if so, the details of the same and the funds allocated for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A copy of the Corporate Plan-1985-2000, will be placed on the Table of the House shortly.

Concession to the Tourism Industry

538. SHRIMATI RATAN KUMARI:
DR. RATNAKAR PANDEY:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to grant major concessions to the Tourism Industry in the near future to meet the target of doubling the number of visitors by the end of the plan; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b) The Government keeps contantly reviewing the need for grant of concessions/incentives to promote tourism, keeping in view the latest trends in the world market To meet the target of Tourist arrivals, Government is already extending several incentives/concessions to hotel industry which include tax holiday, initial depreciation, extra depreciation, higer depreciation backward area subsiay, Institutional Loan, Foreign Exchange incentive quota, concessional customs duty on import of several items, exempption from MRTP ct. priortiy allotment of Telephone/ Telex etc. Travel Agents are also allowed to import office equipment and two cars in a year against their incentive quota of foreign exchange earnings. To promote mountaineering, winter and water sports, Government has agreed for concessional duty on import of equipment and accessories for this purpose.

Leprosy Cases

539. SHRI SHARAD YADAV:
SHRI VIRENDRA VERMA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the percentage of the leprosy cases reported annually as against the percentage of cured cases (till date) during the last three years,

(b) what are the main constraints in the implementation of the National Laprosy Eradication Programme stating the names of the States which have shown unsatisfacotry progress in this regard and the reasons there for?

(c) what is the role of the voluntary social organisations in the eradication of leprosy in the country stating the nature of Central assistance given to such organisations; and

(d) what is the strategy, if any drawn up by the Government to avoid lopsided development of health care system and to achieve better results?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) Number of leprosy cases detected and discharged during last three years under National Leprosy Eradication Programme are as under:—

Year	No. of new cases detected	No. of cured cases	Percentage
1985-86	4,77,152	4,45,827	93·44%
1986-87	5,07,958	5,06,776	99 76%
1987-88 . . . . . (upto Aug. 87)	1,78,000	1,95,000	109 55%